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# THE DIXIE RANGER

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE-SOUTHERN REGION

VOLUME 7

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## A LITTLE BRAGGING DOESN'T HURT

1. Be alert for new and better ways of getting the job done.
2. Give new ideas the widest circulation possible.
3. Give credit to those who do a good job or develop new ideas.
4. Don't be too bashful about bragging a little when you have reason.

Recently, the Forest Service has been studying the need for a formalized system of obtaining and acting upon suggestions from employees for bettering our methods, procedures, standards, and policies and, in general, making fuller use of the thinking ability of all employees. Some of you have participated in a poll to determine the need for such a system. A summary of the results of that poll is tabulated below. A study of past practices indicates that although we have many outlets for ideas, too little use is being made of them. We cannot be proud of our past use of the ingenuity and thinking abilities of our fellow workers.

Regardless of whether or not a formal suggestion system is set up and made mandatory, I feel that through better administrative methods, we can more fully utilize the mental resources of all members of the Service. To do so, we must overcome the quite considerable element of inertia and excessive modesty.

We cannot sit back and wait for people to think and pass on their ideas, but must provide incentives and practical means for the interchange of ideas.

In order to vitalize this program, I ask that every Forest Service employee be constantly on the alert to recognize new and potentially worthwhile ideas and to pass them on through channels, giving full credit where it is due. Such ideas should be passed down the line as well as up, and if found to be usable, put into effect by the officer having authority to do so. If you don't have the necessary authority, pass it on to the man who does, so that he can consider the suggestion and take action to test it. By this means we can winnow the wheat from the chaff and make best use of the composite brains of the organization.

Every supervisory officer should want to know of the ideas and outstanding accomplishments of his subordinates and in order to provide an incentive for good work, should take pains to commend the individuals or units for their above-average accomplishments.

I myself want to know of such cases and hope that all unit heads will advise me currently so that I will know who the people are that are contributing to the advancement of our work. Earned commendations of this kind are needed to complete personnel records so that the employees are given full credit for their good work. I don't want the records to become only a list of shortcomings which we are all too prone to recognize to the exclusion of the good points.

Please study the following tabulation and consider ways and means by which you can better the record.

Poll on Need for a Formalized Suggestion System

1. Do you have ideas or suggestions for the improvement of any job, plan, method, standard, or policy that you have never officially expressed: Yes 350 No 271
2. If yes, is it because
  - (a) You have not been directly asked Yes 158 No 128
  - (b) You did not think it a part of your duty. Yes 91 No 164
  - (c) You feel that past suggestions have not been well received Yes 199 No 116
3. Do you know of cases where others have been discouraged from making suggestions? Yes 252 No 359

4. Do you know of cases where others have  
not been given credit for ideas? Yes 304 No 306
5. Would any of the following have helped?  
 (a) More publicity? Yes 147 No 198  
 (b) Encouragement? Yes 473 No 37  
 (c) Incentive? Yes 334 No 70  
 (d) Or a new method? Yes 206 No 124
6. If you had a good idea for betterment,  
right now, would you know just where and  
how and to whom to express it to assure con-  
sideration? Yes 413 No 210  
 And would you hesitate at all in doing  
so? Yes 215 No 403

-- Joseph C. Kircher  
Regional Forester

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#### STATE FORESTERS MEET IN REGIONAL OFFICE

The Regional Office-State Foresters' conference in Atlanta on February 3 and 4 was one of those old-fashioned family affairs where everyone spoke his mind on the subjects that came up for discussion. Our new Chief of State and Private Forestry, Ed Kotok, was on hand the last day and took an active part in the proceedings. Every State Forester in R-8 territory was present. So much time was spent discussing the Joint Congressional Committee report, a number of subjects on the scheduled program had to be omitted. Nevertheless the conference was a success. It undoubtedly will contribute to a better meeting of minds on major questions of forest policy in the South.

-- C. F. Evans,  
Regional Office

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#### AN APPRECIATION

The Region Seven Fire Handbook was written in 1925 and revised in 1931. Region Seven has replaced it, and this Region plans to get out a revised manual or handbook this year, or at least to get a good start.



In spite of the fact that it was written over fifteen years ago the principles stated therein are almost, and perhaps entirely, as applicable today as when written. It should be kept in mind that the authors provided that equipment, techniques, and organization are not static, and may and must be changed as study and experience dictate. I feel, therefore, in paying my respects to this little handbook that I am not talking about something which has outlived its usefulness, but something which was and still is a live, going concern. The principles and practices advocated can be observed without in any way impeding progress. No unit which adheres to it will get in a rut because it does not permit the establishment of provincial or unprogressive traditions.

An example of what I have in mind is found in the prevention problem. We have become aware that in many places prevention effort has been too scattered to be of maximum effectiveness.

What is now proposed and recognized as sound is to isolate the "sore spots" and concentrate prevention work on them. I believe some of us wonder why someone didn't think of it before. Let me quote from the Region Seven Fire Handbook recommendations made in 1926 and note their similarity to the "modern" conception:

"Principle 1: Possession of exact and detailed knowledge of each risk, gained by comprehensive risk surveys embracing causes of past fires, mental attitudes, customs, and motives of local residents and other forest users, physical situations, and seasonal use and occupancy. (New areas mean new dangers).

"Principle 2: Determination and clean cut definition of each risk zone.

"Principle 3: Preparation of plans providing specific lines of action to ward off, overcome or minimize each risk within each zone.

"Principle 4: Timely, diligent, and effective execution of plans."

Principles 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 contain further pertinent points and plus the four quoted comprise a pretty complete guide to any prevention program. Some of the details of how to attain these ends need modification because of changing conditions, but the principles are still comprehensive and usable.

The principles of pre-suppression and suppression are basically as sound as ever, and until Region Eight has something more modern to offer I commend to all who are interested and have copies of it this concise little publication. It is especially recommended as a guide in analyzing action on Class E, extra-period or any other fires, the action on which is being reviewed.

The book is out of print, but there are copies in many forest and ranger offices which should be dusted off and put to use. Interest in the large printed sheet which contains the "Fire Code" and is found on many office walls should also be revived.

-- J. F. Brooks,  
Regional Office

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#### OPENINGS FOR GRADUATE WORK

The School of Forestry at Oregon State College announces that it will have four graduate assistantships, paying \$550, open for the coming school year. These applications should be submitted in the form of a letter to the Dean, School of Forestry, Corvallis, Oregon, before May 1, 1941.

The School of Forestry, University of Idaho announces one research fellowship in Nursery Practice for the academic year beginning September 15, 1941, with a stipend of \$540.00, payable monthly for a period of nine months, and exemption from all tuition and fees. A Bachelor's degree in Forestry and a strong academic background in botany and silviculture are requirements. Applications in the form of a letter should be submitted not later than March 10, 1941.

Requirements for filing applications for these openings may be secured from the Regional Office, Division of Personnel Management.

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#### THE CHARCOAL BURNERS OF THE FRANCIS MARION

Ranger Rea of the Francis Marion, along with administering large timber sales bringing in \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00 per annum insists on bobbing up periodically with a unique type of salvage sale. Some years ago the emphasis in such extra curricular activity was all on cypress ties. Nothing uncommon in such a product until the fact is brought out that Rea's sales embraced only material found in tops and "sinker" logs, which, by memory of the oldest resident, had lain for fifty years or more in the mud of river banks or the bottoms of stream beds! In time (the scraps left by a former generation being exhausted) Rea, from necessity, turned to other minor products. He found the charcoal burners who (happily!) utilized any and all wood material at hand, be it pine or hardwood, be it standing culls, otherwise unmerchantable tops, "jump butts", or slabs and mill edgings. Rea and the burners got together, to the ends that sales of otherwise unsalvagable material have been made at prices

which cover incidental cost of administration, portions of the forest have been cleaned up, and another family approaching clan size has been assured "three squares" a day.

It is worthy of note that the market for charcoal exists in certain quarters of the old city of Charleston where charcoal burning stoves, and even charcoal heated irons, remain popular. In the forests round about, including the locality of the Francis Marion, the charcoal is manufactured.

One man with an axe can chop and split two cords of 4-foot charcoal wood per day. Man and mule cart the cut wood to an open area. There the "oven", containing roughly four cords of wood, up-ended and stacked tightly around a central pole, is constructed. The oven is completed by banking earth to a depth of two inches over the sides, and five to six inches across the top. Draft holes are provided along the ground line, as well as a narrow flue around the central pole at the base of which has been stacked a best of lighter wood. A lighted match dropped down the flue ignites the oven, which is allowed to burn freely until a "catch" is assured, when all holes are plugged. Viewed from a distance the fired oven, with smoke lazily breaking through the banked earth could, in another land, be mistaken for a low, circular 12-foot skin tent, occupied by a Semitic tribesman.

The wood, in order to produce charcoal, must smolder in the kiln from three to four days. By the report of one burner, hardwood will produce on the average 660 pounds of charcoal per cord, whereas the production from pine is 420 pounds. Hardwood charcoal, billed for "the quality", is sacked in 4-pound bags; pine charcoal, being less choice, is marketed in 2-pound bags, in order to meet the deflated pocket books of the colored race.

Ten cords of wood are burned weekly by the charcoal burners of the Francis Marion, and fifty-two miles they trundle their product to market. Although never met on their return trips, it is surmised that they turn homeward laden down with salt pork and grits. From necessity they should be laden down with food stuffs, for Rea's current wards number from the eldest to the "leastest" exactly thirteen, totally dependent upon charcoal for a living, plus an additional fifteen partially dependent upon such source.

-- Norman R. Hawley,  
South Carolina

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The Canadian Government owns 93 percent of the forests of British Columbia, leasing this to loggers with the idea that it can care for reforestation and permanent forest production better in this way than under private ownership.



APPALACHIAN SECTION, SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS  
ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Assistant Supervisor John W. Squires of the Pisgah was elected Vice-Chairman of the Appalachian Section, Society of American Foresters at the section's annual winter business session held in Asheville on January 30, and Assistant Supervisor James Averell of the Nantahala was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Other officers elected were N. D. Canterbury of Columbia, S. C., Chairman of the Section, Professor William Maughn of the Duke University School of Forestry, Executive Committee member at large.

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CHEROKEE HUNT IS DESCRIBED IN OUTDOOR LIFE

"Bruins and Rooshians" is the title of an article by Arthur Grahame in the February issue of OUTDOOR LIFE. Background material for the article was secured by Mr. Grahame on the Cherokee National Forest Wild Boar and Bear Hunt last November, through arrangements made by the Washington office of I & E and the Regional Office.

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FARMERS IN A CHANGING WORLD

"Farmers in a Changing World" is the theme of the 1940 Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture, a book which "records explorations along the social and economic frontiers of agriculture". The 54 articles in the book are grouped into seven sections: Part 1. The Farmer's Changing World; Part 2. Agriculture and the National Welfare; Part 3. The Farmer's Problems Today and the Efforts to Solve Them; Part 4. Farm Organizations. Part 5. What some Social Scientists Have to Say; Part 6. Democracy and Agricultural Policy; Part 7. Essentials of Agricultural Policy. A Chronology of American Agricultural History is included in the Appendix.

The Forest Service will be particularly concerned with the following articles: Place of Forests in Farm Economy, by B. P. Kirkland; Forest-Resource Conservation, by R. E. Marsh and W. H. Gibbons ("a clear-cut picture of the forestry situation in the United States"); The New Range Outlook, by W. R. Chapline and others (National Forest Program, p. 454); and Cooperative Land Use Planning -- a New Development in Democracy, by E. A. Foster and H. A. Vogel.

Four copies of this Yearbook have been received in the Regional Office for circulation to office and field employees. Let the librarian know if you would like to review this alert and stimulating contribution to the literature of our land.

-- Rachel Lane  
Regional Librarian

## FIRE PREVENTION CONTEST SPONSORED IN NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS

Assistant Supervisor Squires of the Pisgah sends in information on a fire prevention contest under way in the schools of Buncombe County, and which also is being adopted in Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties.

The contest is similar to the one put into effect on the Mississippi National Forests about two years ago. Two contests, both to end March 31 are being sponsored in Buncombe County. One is for fire prevention, and the other a declamation contest on the subject "Our Forests and How We Depend Upon Them". Cash prizes contributed by local business firms, will be awarded in each division.

Sponsors for the contest are the Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina State Forest Service and the Forestry Department of the TVA. The sponsors state their objectives thusly: "to arouse more interest in our forests, to learn more about the use of our forest land, to better appreciate the many products we get from the forests, their value and use and to learn more about the greatest enemy of the forest - fire, how it gets started and how it can be prevented."

The Pisgah has outlined in detail the plans for this contest and a copy can be sent to any Forest requesting one.

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## WHAT'S IN PUBLIC RELATIONS?

The current issue of the Service Bulletin carries an article by Dana Parkinson, Washington Office Chief of Information and Education, under this caption. It is an interesting summary of the article by Charles R. Ross in the December issue of the Journal of Forestry and is reproduced for the benefit of DIXIE RANCHER readers.

"In the December issue of the Journal of Forestry, there is a challenging article: "Some Aspects of Public Relations in the Southern Appalachian Backhills" by Charles R. Ross. The article is devoted to conclusions, following a field case study, as to the reaction of "backhill" folk of limited education to our public relations efforts. Those conclusions are, of course, more specifically applicable to the type of individuals contacted in the study. However, there are certain of his findings which have more general importance and which should be seriously considered - or reconsidered and emphasized - in the orientation of information activities.

"Suggestions from his study which might pay us well to keep in mind, are:

"1. Educational material which uses a local setting has tremendously greater appeal than that using foreign, unfamiliar locales and problems.

"2. Public relations activities which have as their objective help to the other fellow are apt to pay huge dividends in acceptance of our educational efforts. A much more receptive atmosphere is created when forest officers expend real effort in furthering community activities and in helping the other fellow solve his own economic and social problems.

"3. The prime interest of mountain people in the Forest Service program was to discover ways in which it could directly bring economic benefit to themselves - jobs, additional sources of livelihood, usable products.

"4. County agents in the Appalachian back country are well known, well thought of and influential. Why? Because they got around among the people and could offer ways of improving living standards. Forest officers on the other hand were largely unknown and therefore without influence because of little contact with the people.

"5. With back country folk, preachers have a mighty influence and will be heeded - whether it be for or against your program.

"There are a number of other interesting points in the story, a few of which will be noted here. Discussing the effectiveness of various mediums, Mr. Ross finds that pamphlets are good but don't have very wide distribution at present; signs are good, if simple and if revised often; movies, though very popular, are too fast moving or carry too many ideas in rapid succession for ready comprehension. For his mountain people, metropolitan papers and popular magazines were no good - not read. Mountain music was a suggested new vehicle for securing interest in radio and other conservation programs. Forest Service exhibits weren't even mentioned; apparently neither the author nor the people studied, had ever seen any in mountain communities."

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#### 10th ENGINEERS (FORESTRY) BOOK OUT

The 10th. Engineers (Forestry), in the organization and recruiting of which the Forest Service had such a large share, now has available a history and roster of the Regiment. This will interest any ex-members of this famous Regiment who are in this Region. After a good many years effort, a special Publication Committee of ex-members of the 10th. have finally published this 48-page booklet. Copies may be secured for 50 cents each, postpaid, by writing to John D. Guthrie, Army & Navy Club, Washington, D. C. The book is called "The Carpathians", from the name of the British ship on which the Regiment went across in September, 1917.



## NAVAL STORES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Total benefit payments for participation in the 1939 Naval Stores Conservation Program amounted to \$1,432,084.56. The distribution by States is as follows:

Georgia	\$627,750.66
Florida	535,913.66
Alabama	193,699.37
Mississippi	62,761.00
South Carolina	58,066.98
North Carolina	2,838.37
Louisiana	1,054.02

A total of 2,510 producers participated in these payments. The following table classifies the producers by the number of faces in their operation:

	10,000 or less	10,000 to 50,000	50,000 to 100,000	100,000 to 200,000	Over 200,000	
<u>District</u>	<u>Number of Producers</u>					<u>Total No.</u>
Jacksonville	348	82	129	128	52	739
Pensacola	593	81	59	70	29	832
Savannah	605	164	87	61	22	939
Total all Districts	1,546	327	275	259	103	2,510
Percent	61.6	13.0	11.0	10.3	4.1	100.0

It is interesting to note that 61.6 percent of the producers are gum farmers who operate 10,000 or less faces. Only 14.4 percent of the producers have operations that consist of 10 or more crops.

Vouchers are now being audited for the 1940 Naval Stores Conservation Program and it is estimated that about \$1,200,000.00 will be paid in benefit payments.

-- Joseph Yencso  
Regional Office

### WANTED - SAFETY NEWS

Under the caption "Who is Doing What in Safety" a recent issue of the Northern Region News states that henceforth it is dedicating a section to safety items. It further states that so many good suggestions and ideas are coming in from safety officers that a way is needed to pass them along without putting out circular letters.



Recently the Dixie Ranger established the "Bulletin Board" for matters of general interest to Forest Service personnel and requested your contributions. It seems that this space might well be used for straight news of your safety programs. More than anything else, we need suggestions from the men on the job. If you are doing anything in a special way in accident prevention, or have any suggestions regarding equipment, send them in for the Bulletin Board. CCC leaders, foremen, engineers, superintendents, machine operators, skilled workmen, district rangers, staff officers and supervisors should from time to time have a contribution to make to this section of the Dixie Ranger.

The Daily Contact - R-9 - recently reminded us:

"Accidents - subtract from your happiness,  
add to your discomfort,  
divide your income,  
multiply your worries."

Let's prevent them!

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#### TASMANIA STUDIES PYROMANIA

Region 8 is accustomed to entertaining visitors from the far corners of the world, but few of them come from so remote a spot as Tasmania, the land from "down under". We were especially glad to have Mr. John J. Edwards of the Tasmanian Forest Service in the Regional Office the first of February. Mr. Edwards for the past eighteen months has been taking special work at the University of Washington, and his government is sending him on a tour of the United States. He is especially interested in the whole man-caused fire problem, and in small utilization plants.

While in the Region, Mr. Edwards visited the national forests in Georgia, Mississippi and Texas and the Experiment Station in New Orleans.

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#### STRAIGHT "SHOOTIN" IN FLORIDA

In the early days of the Wakulla Ranger District, way back in the spring of 1939, a set of cross-tie cull factors were evolved from an accumulation of data obtained in a study conducted to determine the relative revenue to be obtained from sales of saw logs as compared with cross tie sales.

Resulting from this study, the following instructions were issued to the Ranger to be used in marking tree measurement sales of pine cross-ties:

"In case a tree is defective or has a short crook, which would cull a tie, the net number of ties should be recorded as well as the number of cull ties with a circle drawn around the latter figure. No tree will be marked which is estimated to contain less than two cross ties, net. In addition to culling in the standing tree, pond pine will be further culled by 5.6% and long-leaf and slash pine by 4.9% in order to arrive at the final net number of ties required in any particular sale."

During the fiscal year 1940, on Wakulla tree measurement sales having a net total of 6,939 ties marked, the purchasers involved reported a total of 7,056 merchantable ties cut. Thus, the net cut exceeded the number of ties marked by 1.69%.

Needless to say we were pleased with the results since the difference in cross tie inspectors will fluctuate more than 1 or 2%. Administration costs were reduced materially and the purchasers were better satisfied with the new method.

-- F. S. Harris  
Florida

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SOUTHERN PULPWOOD CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION  
ELECTS OFFICERS

The Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association which held its annual meeting in Atlanta on January 23-24 elected as its President Walter J. Damtoft of Canton, North Carolina to succeed J. H. Allen of Pensacola, Florida. Other officers elected at the annual convention include: A. H. Stier, of Fernandina, Fla., Executive Vice President, and Frank Heyward, Jr. of Atlanta, General Manager. Directors and Vice Presidents, respectively, from each State in the Association are:

North Carolina, T. W. Earle, Hugh Camp. South Carolina, W. D. Comings, C. P. Cuthbert. Georgia, M. S. Kahler, K. S. Trowbridge. Florida, A. H. Stier, George L. Snowden. Alabama, W. E. Penfield, H. S. Galloway. Mississippi, P. M. Garrison, P. N. Howell. Louisiana, C. O. Brown, A. G. Curtis. Arkansas, J. E. McCaffrey, Earl Porter. Texas, C. E. Smith, E. J. Downey. Tennessee, W. P. Bullock, J. H. Keener. Virginia, E. A. Sterling, R. F. Bower. At large, R. H. Laftman of Florida, At Large, W. C. Schwab, At Large, J. H. Allen of North Carolina.

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The sympathy of the Regional Office is extended to Miss Mary Elizabeth Jennings, whose mother, Mrs. W. R. Jennings died on January 19.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### ATTENTION: TRAVELLING OFFICERS

Synopsis of Decision by the Comptroller General dated January 3, 1941 is of interest to all travelling officers:

"B-13685. (S) Travelling Expenses -- Hire of Special Conveyances -- Regulation Restriction -- Evidence of Compliance.

An official traveler claiming reimbursement of charges for the hire of a special conveyance must furnish a positive statement whether or not it was hired from a person or a class (Government employees, etc.) from which such hire is prohibited by paragraph 11 (c) of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations except under the conditions stated therein, even though said paragraph does not expressly require such a statement."

Paragraph 11 (c) is quoted for review:

"Charges for the hire of a conveyance of another Government employee, of a member of the traveler's family, or of a member of the family of another Government employee, will not be allowed in the absence of a satisfactory showing that the conveyance was not so procured because of such personal or official relationship; that it was impracticable to otherwise procure, and that the member of the family so furnishing was not dependent upon the traveler for support. The material facts should be reported in the account."

Note: Special conveyances are such as livery, boat, automobile (not taxicabs locally), aircraft, etc.

-- H. B. Herms  
Regional Office

Forest Service Inspectors Thomas Wilson and Alan Freas of the Forest Products Laboratory have been detailed to the Stinson Airplane factory at Wayne, Michigan to supervise the inspection of lumber to be used in planes and train a staff of the Stinson factory's regular inspectors.

SENATE CONFIRMS SWOPE NOMINATION AS  
GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO

A recent Associated Press item in the New York Herald Tribune states that without objection, United States Senate confirmed the President's appointment of Guy J. Swope, former Pennsylvania Representative, as governor of Puerto Rico.

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THE CCC ALWAYS GETS ITS MAN

Alabama State Forester Toler submits the following item concerning the search for a boy lost in the vicinity of Camp P-78 in which the personnel and enrollees of the camp rendered valuable assistance.

"Edward Fuzzell on January 13 had gone squirrel hunting and had a dog with him also a 20 gauge shotgun. Searching parties had looked for him practically all night. Included in the search were a detachment of soldiers from Fort Barrancas with their giant search lights.

"The entire work section of CCC Camp P-78 with all supervisory personnel and Company Commander Morgan arrived on the scene at 8:30 A. M. on January 14. After talking with several local people who knew the swamp, a plan was decided on for the CCC crews. As it was thought that the boy had met with an accident, a complete and thorough search of the area was organized.

"Fuzzell was found about 11:45 south of the area being covered by the CCC crews who failed to hear the signals and did not learn of Fuzzell's discovery until that afternoon. The boy was in good condition, but wet, hungry and muddy. However he still had his dog, gun and one squirrel. Members of Fuzzell's family and many local residents were very generous in praising the efforts of the CCC boys.

"After seven hours of hard going through this jungle constantly wading in water waist deep at times in mid January, this CCC outfit although tired seemed none the worse for wear. After returning to camp all enrollees were examined by Camp Surgeon Unger and pronounced O. K., indicating the outfit can take it!"

The superintendent has been commended on the splendid organization of his crews and the manner in which the search was handled.

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ONE OF THE LITTLE "EXTRAS" --

On January 30, a fire was reported on private land between two state highways, and north of a plowed and burned fire break, which separated it from National Forest land on the Wakulla.

Knowing that no action was necessary to prevent the fire from burning over on to Government land, but figuring that this was an excellent opportunity to give the current group of enrollee fire fighting trainees a taste of the real thing, Ranger Jack T. May took the trainees and a tractor plow unit to the fire for a workout. On arrival, they saw a chance to make a fire prevention contact that would stick. Proof that their action was appreciated is evidenced by the following letter which Mr. May received a few days later:

"Dear Mr. May:

I am living with a son of mine who owns a little house on a cross road running from the Woodville road west to the new paved Crawfordville road. This road is about 660 feet north from your forest reserve.

One day last week a fire burned all of the land north of this house. We were all away that day and when we returned at night we saw that the only thing that saved this house from burning was the fire line that you had plowed around the house and garage. There was a quantity of fire wood between the house and the garage and a pile of lightered fence posts near the garage, so it looks as if this house and garage would have certainly been burned.

We appreciate your kindness in this matter and the good work done by your service. If ever I can be of aid to your service please let me know.

Kindest regards."

-- Gordon A. Hammon,  
Florida

(Editor's note: This is another evidence of the high importance of the "extras" - the extra bit of help beyond the job requirement often proves to be something big to the other fellow. More often than not, it is the little things which make friends for the Service. This should serve to remind us that being interested in the other fellow's problems is the one sure way of interesting him in our work and problems.)

## BEATING THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

The February 8 issue of the Federal Register carries a copy of the Executive Order conferring on the Director of Selective Service the authority to "establish, designate, or determine work of national importance under civilian direction to which may be assigned persons found under section 5 of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 to be conscientiously opposed to participation in combatant and non-combatant training and service in the land or naval forces of the United States."

A recent issue of the California Ranger quotes the "National Tribune" on a reforestation plan for conscientious objectors, as follows:

"Conferences with the President and with the Department of Agriculture and the Interior and the Social Security Agency, and negotiations with the National Council for Conscientious Objectors, have resulted in the development of a cooperative program which will provide manpower for soil conservation and reforestation, take conscientious objectors from their communities and put them in camps, at the same time meeting the letter and spirit of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940," said Director C. A. Dykstra.

"The contemplated proposal puts the responsibility for general supervision and administration upon the selective service system. The planning and engineering features of the program become the undertaking of the Federal departments responsible for soil conservation and reforestation. The actual operation and maintenance of the camps is the responsibility of the conscientious objectors' groups.

"Not only will CCC camps, lately abandoned, be used but also camps in State and National Forests or preserves now operated as work projects will be pressed into service as well."

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## PERSONNEL CHANGES

Basil M. Burks, Engineering Aid on the Oakmulgee District of the Alabama, has tendered his resignation to accept other employment.

George J. O'Connor of the Texas State CCC has been transferred to the Cherokee Supervisor's office where he will function as Section II head.

Junior Engineering Draftsman Edwin M. Smith of the Regional Division of Engineering has tendered his resignation to accept a position with the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

Abstractor Roger Sidney Cobb has been transferred from the Alabama Supervisor's office to the Mississippi.

Probational appointment has been effected for Mrs. Adelaide E. Bosso as Assistant Clerk-Stenographer in the Florida Supervisor's office.

Junior Forester Walter J. Gray has been transferred from the Kisatchie National Forest to the Croatan District of the Pisgah, where he is assigned to CCC administrative activities.

Resignation has been accepted from Equipment Operator Herbert L. Simpson of the Black Warrior District of the Alabama to accept another position.

Junior Forester Walter J. Clark has been transferred from the Kisatchie to the Long Cane District of the South Carolina where he is engaged on CCC administrative activities.

The following intra-unit personnel changes have been effected:

Florida - Minor Assistant-to-Technician Spurgeon McDuffie from the Osceola to the Apalachicola.

Mississippi - Abstractor Glender Dennis from the Holly Springs to the Leaf River.

Ouachita - Junior Foreman Unley V. Thornton from the Fourche to the Jessieville; Principal Foreman James P. Brown from the Mena to the Womble; District Forest Ranger Guy M. Wilkinson from the Kiamichi to the Fourche; District Forest Ranger Knoxie M. Kunze from the Fourche to the Kiamichi.

Ozark - Junior Foreman Kenneth B. Trousdell from the White Rock to the Sylamore.

#### THE LOOKOUT

Regional Forester Kircher presented a paper on "Forest Problems Confronting the Southeast" at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Society of American Foresters held in Montgomery, Alabama on January 25.

Supervisor Riebold has been elected Chairman of the Executive Council of the Columbia, S. C. USDA Club for 1941. He succeeds George D. Halsey of the Farm Credit Administration. This club is composed of the personnel of twelve bureaus of the United States Department of Agriculture operating in Columbia and vicinity, with a membership of approximately 500.

Announcement is made of the appointment of Mr. H. J. Malsberger as State Forester and Park Executive for the State of Florida as of January 14.

Miss Dorothy Reynolds of the Division of Fiscal Control and J. Roy Smith of Atlanta were married on February 1. Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Smith from their friends in the Regional Office.

Mrs. Frances Van Wagner, Assistant Head, Section 3, in charge of files on the Cherokee National Forest, recently visited the Regional Office, making a study of the filing systems.

Wm. F. Fischer reported to the Regional Office January 20 in the Division of Recreation and Lands as Flood Control Liaison Officer.

Associate Regional Forester H. O. Stabler visited the Pisgah and Florida National Forests during the month of January.

Conferences were held this month in the Regional Office as follows:

To outline a program on forest influences research with Director McArdle as Chairman and Hursch of the Appalachian Station, Meginnis of the Southern Station and members of the Regional Office; conference on unified state program with Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Forest Service; on organization camps, with members of WPA and Forest Service; on growth relation questions as they affect forestry in the South with members of the Forest Service and Forest Products Laboratory.

Miss Mary G. Lacy, Assistant Librarian of the Department of Agriculture and Librarian of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics visited the Regional Office on January 29.

Recent office visitors were:

Washington Office: O. Wiederhold  
E. I. Kotok  
G. R. Phillips  
P. W. Nelson

Other visitors were:

W. C. McCormick, Raleigh, N. C.; J. W. Sargent, Jr. State Forest Service, Little Rock, Arkansas; H. M. Sebring, Regional Forester, SCS, Spartanburg, S. C., D. E. Lauderburn, SCS, Spartanburg, S. C., C. H. Flory, SCS, Spartanburg, S. C., W. L. Lear, Assistant Professor of Forestry, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama; D. J. Weddell, Director, School of Forestry, Athens, Ga., Professor Patterson, School of Forestry, Athens, Ga., C. F. Kerstian, Director, School of Forestry, Durham, N. C., Wm. Maughan, School of Forestry, Durham, N. C., A. D. Folweiler, School of Forestry, University, La.; C. A. Gillett, Seaboard Airline Railway, Norfolk, Virginia, Director R. E. McArdle, L. I. Barrett, E. V. Roberts, James W. Cruikshank and Leon Chaiken, of the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, North



Carolina; Director E. L. Dommon, I. F. Aldredge, P. C. Wakeley, John A. Lubbe, Roy A. Chapman, and R. B. Craig of the Southern Forest Experiment Station, New Orleans, La.; A. R. Spillers, S & PF, Region 7, Washington, D. C., W. A. Hartman, BAE, Atlanta, Ga., Zack Galloway, BAE, Washington; Oscar Steanson, BAE, Athens, Ga.; H. C. Carruth, Extension Forester, Athens, Ga., Marion Ruffin, Naval Stores Inspector, Vidalia, Ga.; Elliott Reed, Savannah, Ga.; A. O. Weidelich, Log Cabin Association, Sylva, N. C.; B. M. Lufburrow, Jesup, Ga., Wm. Oettmeier, Fargo, Ga., Gordon Wallace, Project Forester, Butler, Ga., Benson H. Paul and M. Y. Pillow, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., Richard Kilbourne, and George T. Olson, TVA, Norris, Tenn., W. T. Fullilove, State Experiment Station, Experiment, Ga., Clarke Mathewson, Project Forester, Lake City, Florida; B. Koontz, Texas Forest Service, College Station, Texas; Captain M. W. May, Jr.; and Supervisor Rasor of the Alabama National Forests.

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## FOX HUNTING ON THE SABINE NATIONAL FOREST

Back yonder, fox hunting at the old Boles Field was known to only a few local hunters, who would travel in wagons loaded with camping equipment and hounds, to chase the fox at this old plantation. This plantation now produces merchantable pine timber in the heart of the "Piney Woods" of Deep East Texas and the Sabine National Forest.

It was back in 1935 when the Forest Service first considered the possibility of developing a fox hunters camp at this historic Boles Field. The idea grew and developed into a rustic native cedar shelter, with a large rock fireplace as the center of attraction, a spring development, and picnic and camping facilities, all enclosed by a Virginia rail fence. It was not long until the sounds of picnics, family reunions, club gatherings, social activities, and campers were intermingling with the familiar music of hounds and horns. By 1938 the East Texas Fox Hunters Association cast a knowing eye on Boles Field as the spot for their annual hunts. The Forest Service met this need by constructing some 50 inexpensive kennels, several corrals, and providing a large camping area adjacent to the existing development. The Twelfth Annual Hunt (1938) was, to that date, the largest and most successful hunt ever held in East Texas. The Thirteenth Annual Hunt (1939) met with still greater success, and, as to fox hounds, there were 1,063 of them producing music to the ears of hunters and the thousands of visitors.

All this pointed to one thing: How were the large crowds which attend the four-day annual hunt, the bench show, and evening entertainments to be handled? The "Era of the Bowls" (Rose Bowl, Orange Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Cotton Bowl, etc.) suggested a "Fox Bowl". The Forest constructed the only one of its kind known in these United States. This Fox Bowl, which has a seating capacity of 1800 people, is located in a natural amphitheater with native hewn log seats placed on concrete piers, laid out in a semi-circle, overlooking an arena, with a large stage in the background. In addition, an adequate water and electric light system has been provided. This Fox Bowl, with the other added improvements, attracted hunters from many states - New York, Tennessee, Florida, Kansas, and California, to mention a few.

The program for the 1940 hunt was as follows:

December 9, Registration Day! The first day began with the registering of some 1100 fox hounds and the bringing in of 150 horses for the field trials. A panorama picture was taken of hunters, hounds, and horses at the Fox Bowl. For the evening activities the Fox Bowl, with a capacity of 1800, tried to seat 11,000. This crowd covered the bowl like a swarm of bees, enveloping it and the surrounding area. Forest personnel, at the request of the Fox Hunters Association, explained to the hunters and their friends gathered there the multiple-use program of

managing an area such as the Sabine National Forest. The address of welcome was by District Judge T. O. Davis of Center, Texas. Response was by Chief Justice Daniel Walker of Beaumont, Texas. The annual bench show followed with Bettie Ballot owned by B. A. Skipper, Jr., of Ehrino, Texas, winning the grand champion show dog title. Some 2500 camped at the site and turned the campground into a city of tents, with bonfires attracting groups of hunters who discussed past year chases and what their hounds would do on the morrow.

December 10: At daybreak hunters with 300 fox hounds answered the roll call. A word of the fire tradition (not a fire in the past two hunts) by the Sabine Rangers; then the big event - 300 hounds turned loose at one time. Words fail to describe the scene. The official photographer trying to get the picture was covered up with hounds. Information regarding the field trials reached the ears of everyone through the Texas and Kisatchie Showboat operated by Charlie Bryan. The evening brought out the horn blowers to the Fox Bowl for the annual contest, (a chance for everyone that wanted to toot his own). The amateur contest, in which hunters and local people participated, followed. And the Fox Bowl tried to handle 10,000 people!

December 11 and 12 set in with heavy rains, but still the hunt continued, with 3000 taking part. Loyalty to a sport? You simply cannot get ahead of fox hunters!

The East Texas Fox Hunters Association, together with the News-Champion Publishers of Center, Texas, showed their appreciation by portraying the plan of the Fox Bowl on the front of the Official Souvenir Program and dedicating the issue to the personnel of the Sabine National Forest. A vote of thanks is due the Association for the splendid record which it established -- three of the greatest hunts without a forest fire.

--- Martin Syverson  
Texas National Forests

